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2. (Amended) The overhead industrial light fixture of claim 1 wherein the lamp-mounting socket is positioned with its lamp-receiving end substantially aligned vertically and horizontally with the socket window.

Remarks

The Applicants appreciate the attention of the Examiner to the application. The Office Action of the Examiner has been reviewed with care in the preparation of this response. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action. Claims 1-27 are pending.

Applicants again appreciate the indication of allowability of claims 14-27. Following the suggestion of the Examiner in the previous Office Action, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to more clearly identify the type of socket being secured with respect to the housing comprising Applicants' invention. Support for the amendments is found in the application at page 8, lines 14-17 and page 9, lines 7-13 and in the preamble to claim 1. The amendments are provided in marked-up version on the attached page entitled "Version with markings to show changes made." With admission of these amendments, Applicants submit that claims 1-13 are also patentable.

Claims 1-13 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,219,868 (Bowman). Applicants respectfully submit that reliance by the Examiner on Bowman for rejection of claims 1-13 in the application is misplaced. As amended, the invention of claims 1-13 is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Bowman.

The instant invention, as set forth in claim 1, comprises a housing to an overhead industrial light fixture wherein the power related components and the lamp-mounting socket are all secured within the enclosed space of that single housing. Bowman does not disclose nor in any way suggest this combination of features.

In particular, the Examiner asserts that Figure 8 of Bowman clearly shows a housing wherein a socket is secured with respect to the housing and positioned substantially within the housing. The housing shown in Figure 8, however, is a housing for device 17 that secures

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wiring bringing power to the overhead industrial light fixture and the connectors for such wiring. This housing does not enclose the power-related components of the light fixture itself.

Moreover, no socket and especially no lamp-mounting socket is identified anywhere in Bowman. Feature 76 is identified by the Examiner as a socket but it is described in Bowman as "a main body portion" of the housing 75 for the connector 52 (column 4, line 67-column 5, line 2). This assembly has features making it similar to an electrical socket but it has nothing in common with the lamp-mounting socket in Applicants' claim 1.

The Examiner further asserts that Bowman discloses a housing that encloses the ballast needed to operate the overhead light fixture but that this is not shown in the drawings to the patent. Bowman does indeed disclose a ballast housing 12. This housing is shown at the bottom of Figure 8 as being distinct from the housing for device 17. One housing (17) secures wiring and connectors; another (12) encloses a ballast circuit. Neither housing is disclosed by Bowman as securing a lamp-mounting socket. No single housing is disclosed in Bowman that secures both the alleged socket (76) and the unseen ballast circuit. Applicants' invention, on the other hand, provides one housing in which not only are the power-related components of the light fixture secured within it but the lamp-mounting socket is both secured and positioned substantially within it.

Finally, the Examiner asserts that certain features relied upon by Applicants to distinguish their invention over Bowman are not recited in claims 1-13. Claim 1 is the only independent claim among claims 1-13. Among the features recited in claim 1 is that of a single housing that secures within it the power-related components of an overhead industrial light fixture. This feature is not disclosed by Bowman. Although, as stated above, Bowman does disclose a housing enclosing a ballast circuit for a light fixture, nowhere in Bowman does it suggest that this same housing encloses additional power-related components such as a capacitor or an ignitor.

In addition, claim 1 recites that a lamp-mounting socket is secured with respect to the same housing enclosing the power-related components wherein the lamp-mounting socket is positioned substantially within the enclosed space of that housing. Bowman fails to show any aspect of this feature in that a lamp-mounting socket comprises no part of the Bowman patent

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and nowhere in the Bowman specification is there disclosure of a lamp-mounting socket of any sort.

The differences between claim 1 and Bowman are significant. The invention in Bowman is for an improved device for "both mounting and supplying electrical power to an industrial luminaire in a lighting system." (column 2, lines 3-6) This device facilitates connection and disconnection of the lighting fixture to an overhead circuit cable. While it provides for a housing for two electrical connectors to accomplish this, nothing in that invention is directed to the components of the lighting fixture itself.

In contrast, Applicants' invention provides a unique low-profile overhead industrial light fixture of significant value in the lighting industry. The invention comprises a single housing in which power-related components of the lighting fixture are secured within it as is a socket to receive and mount the fixture's lamp.

As amended, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and early favorable action is requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney if that would be helpful to resolve any issues that remain.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) In an overhead industrial light fixture of the type including a housing, power-related components, and a lamp-mounting socket, the improvement comprising:

- the housing having top and bottom walls and sidewalls therebetween together forming a substantially enclosed space, the bottom wall defining a socket window;
- the power-related components each being secured with respect to the housing within the enclosed space; and
- the lamp-mounting socket being secured with respect to the housing and positioned substantially within the enclosed space,

thereby providing a low-profile fixture with its components within a single housing.

2. (Amended) The overhead industrial light fixture of claim 1 wherein the lamp-mounting socket is positioned with its lamp-receiving end substantially aligned vertically and horizontally with the socket window.

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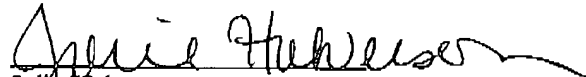
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the following documents: (1) Amendment; (2) transmittal cover sheet; all involving patent application serial no. 09/232,743 are being facsimile transmitted to Examiner Anabel Ton at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, facsimile no. 703-746-4767 Group Art Unit 2875, on July 10, 2002.


Julie Halverson

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